in its place of a small Committee of 2 or 3 gentlemen to arrange for text-books being written by some competent gentlemen, the Government rewarding them suitably and keeping the copy-right of such books to themselves.

The Member concluded his representation with submitting (1) that all Malayalam schools—whether for boys or girls—should, for purposes of inspection, control, &c., be placed under one person who was thoroughly conversant with the language of the country and (2) that the quality of instruction at present imparted was not satisfactory and that it should be improved.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Members will be carefully considered. As regards the teaching of boys and girls together in Class V, the Government will issue orders to stop the practice, wherever it exists.

109. Education of Mahomedans.

Mr. N. A. Mahomed Kunju (Member, Nominated) first submitted the grateful acknowledgments of the Mahomedan community to Government for what was being done to advance the cause of education among them. The Member then made the following requests:—

(1) At present 99 Muslim boys were studying in 303 grant-in-aid schools. The reason for such a small number was that they had to pay the school-fees in full and not half as in Departmental schools. Therefore, the half-fee concession should be made to apply to grant-in-aid schools also.

(2) Special scholarships should be awarded to Muslim students to enable them to prosecute their studies in Secondary schools and Colleges. The single scholarship at present given to a Mahomedan student in the H. H. the Maha Raja's College was not sufficient.

(3) There were at present 22 Departmental Elementary schools and 21 private Elementary schools in the whole State. The number was not sufficient. More schools should be started in centres where there were Mahomedan Committees formed for the spread of Vernacular education. At least 4 schools should be opened in each Range annually.

(4) Wherever Arabic Munshis had been attached to Elementary schools, they had attracted Muslim boys, to such schools. As, however, there were schools in Mahomedan localities where Arabic Munshis had not been appointed, Arabic Munshis should be attached to such schools to attract Muslim boys to those schools.

(5) A Committee composed of gentlemen who were thoroughly conversant with the Arabic language and literature to select persons for the post of Arabic Munshis should be appointed.

(6) Sufficient time was not being allowed to Mahomedan pupils in schools on Fridays to enable them to attend their mosques for purposes of worship. They should be given one hour more than they were having at present. The period of interval granted to Mahomedans should apply generally to all schools in which Muslim boys were studying. In such places, the attendance must be between 11 A. M. and 5 P. M.

(7) Whenever qualified Mahomedans applied for Government appointments, they should invariably be given preference and orders to that effect should go to Heads of Departments and Offices.

(8) Proper encouragement should be given to Mahomedans to enter service by exempting them from service qualifications, as such a concession will act as a strong incentive to the advancement of the material interests of Mahomedans.

(9) Those Mahomedan boys who had taken the Elementary School Leaving Certificates should be given places in the Registration, Revenue and other Departments, while those who had taken the S. S. L. Certificates should be more largely employed in English schools in the State.

(10) Primary education should be made compulsory at least among Mahomedans. As a result of the exertions made by the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, 73 Educational Committees for the spread of education among Mahomedans had been formed. There were about 35,000 Mahomedan boys of school-going age;

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yet, those who were actually in school numbered only 8,569 in grant-in-aid schools. Though that worked out to about 25 per cent, the proportion with reference to Quilon, Trivandrum, &c., was not even 5 per cent. So, for the present, compulsory education should be introduced, as an experimental measure, at least in Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppey.

(11) With the opening, in Edavam next, of a Lower Grade Secondary school at Alleppey, there was a chance of the Higher Grade Elementary school there, established for the use of the Mahomedans, being closed. If there was any idea of that kind, that should not be done. A Lower Grade Elementary school in a locality with a large Mahomedan population might be converted into a Higher Grade Elementary School, when the Higher Grade Elementary School at Alleppey was abolished.

Replying to the Dewan about the people providing a building for the Secondary school, the Member said that the department wanted that the buildings used for the Higher Grade Elementary school should be handed over for the Secondary school and that a new building should be put up for the Elementary school measuring 200 ft. × 50 ft. The idea of the people was to construct a new building for the Secondary school. But they had no objection to do as required by the Government or the Department.

Mr. P. K. Kochuvava (Member, Nominated) spoke about the ancient position of Mahomedans in India and the pre-eminence they enjoyed once. He then dealt with the difficulties which stood in the way of their educational advancement and the comparatively low position they latterly held in respect of Government service. He next thanked the Government for the encouragement given to Mahomedan education by the appointment of Arabic Munshis and in other ways and requested that the policy of appointing an Arabic Munshi in schools having a large number of Mahomedan boys be extended to both Higher and Lower Grade Elementary schools where Mahomedan boys were studying, whatever be their number. The Member also requested that at least a Primary school be opened at Munambam for the benefit of all communities and for the appointment of an Arabic Munshi in that School.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The attention of the Director of Public Instruction will be drawn to the Member's representation about the school at Munambam.

110. The Lajnatul Mahomediya Association and the Travancore Government.

Mr. N. A. Mahomed Kunju (Member, Nominated) requested that the "Lajnatul" Mahomedan Association at Alleppey be given the privilege of deputing a Member to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Their Association was a thoroughly representative body which had been established to safeguard the interests of their community. It had been registered under the Joint Stock Companies Regulation and had 400 members. The Association had been spending about Rs. 2,000 every year in giving noon-day meals to Mahomedan school-boys and encouraging Mahomedan education in other ways. The Association had also been working to stop social evils and undesirable customs among the Mahomedan community. The second request of the Member was that the "Koran" should not be used in Courts for the purpose of administering oaths. The practice did not exist in British India and it should be stopped here. The next point was that Arabic Text-books used by Mahomedan boys in schools were not being selected properly. The power of selecting them should be given to the Alleppey Association. Lastly, at least two of the Mahomedan festivals should be recognized as sufficiently important and general holidays given to all and not for Mahomedans alone.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The Government have no objection to consider any suggestions the Mahomedan community may have to make in the matter of selecting Arabic Text-books for Mahomedan boys.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 P. M.

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